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TOKYO: March 7, 2005

YOUR REF :

RE: Amendment of the claims under Article 19(1)(Rule 46) OUR REF : P86798

International Application No. : PCT/JP2004/010370

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Agent's File reference: P86798

Dear Sirs.

The applicant, who received the International Search Report relating the above identified International Application transmitted on January 19, 2005 hereby files amendment under Article 19(1) as in the attached sheets.

We hereby would like to amend claims 1 and 3, and also cancel claim 6.

Claims 2, 4, 5 are retained unchanged.

The applicant also files as attached herewith a brief statement explaining the amendment and indicating any impact the amendment might have on the description

Encl

(1) Amendment under Article 19(1) 2 sheet
(2) Brief statement 1 sheet

Very truly yours,
TAKINO & ASSOCIATES

Hideo TAKINO
Patent Attorney

Claims

1. (Currently amended)

5 An electric equipment module structure comprising a case having a base and a cover, wherein the case being disposed a terminal, an electric wire connecting the terminal being arranged in the base, a cutout portion being disposed in the base to bend and guide out the electric wire, an illuminant is disposed in the case, the terminal being electrically
10 conducted to the illuminant, and an outside opening of the cutout portion being closed by the cover from above.

2. The electric equipment module structure described in claim 1, characterized in that a projection pressing the electric
15 wire at the cutout portion is disposed, the electric wire being bent along the projection.

3. (Currently amended)

20 The electric equipment module structure as claimed in claim 1 or 2, the base and cover having a connection portion at one end and a connected portion at another end, respectively, a plurality of cases being possible to connect mutually.

4. The electric equipment module structure described in claim
25 3, characterized in that the connection portion biases the base

and cover to the closing direction.

5. The electric equipment module structure described in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a constitution of the electric equipment module structure described in claim 3 or 4 is provided.

6. (Cancelled)

Argument based on Section 19

Doc-1: US-B-6299472

Doc-2: US-B-6555746

Doc-3: EP-A-0387158

With regard to claim 1:

Doc-1 is a connector for a trunk line and a branch line. Doc-1 discloses that the second component (cover) 14 is then hinged upwardly and over on to the first component 12, by movement in the direction of an arrow 136 shown in FIG. 1. See column 4, lines 30 to 32. Doc-1 does not disclose that an outside opening of the cutout portion is closed by the cover from above in the present invention.

Doc-2 discloses that the component retention socket 100 further includes a lid 130 movably attached, by any means known in the art, to the socket housing 102 proximate an upper surface 126 thereof, such that the lid 130 may be moved between an open position shown in FIG. 1 and a closed position shown in FIG. 2. See column 3, lines 60 to 65. FIG. 10 and 11 shows a slidable arrangement. See column 6, lines 5 to 9. Doc-2 does not disclose that an outside opening of the cutout portion is closed by the cover from above. Claim 6 is combined into claim 1 to further restrict claim 1.

With regard to claim 2:

The present invention provides a sufficient strain-relief function with projections 13 which depress an electric wire downwardly at cutout portions 12. See page 14, lines 10 to 15.

In Doc-1, the conductors 132 and 134 are bent downwardly by the two ledges 52 and the flaps 68 and 70 as shown in FIG. 4. See column 4, lines 56 to 63. If the flaps 68 and 70 are supposed to be the projections 13 of the present invention, the outwardly projecting two ledges 52 are different from the cutout portions 12.

Doc-2 does not disclose the projections and the cutouts.

With regard to claim 3:

Doc-3 discloses a connection of connectors. Since claim 3 is amended to be dependent to claim 1 or 2, the rejection will be overcome.

With regard to claim 6:

Claim 6 is combined into claim 1 to show a distinct difference from Doc-1 and Doc-2.